



The University of Cincinnati Bearcat Compliance Corner



*The Official Newsletter of the UC Compliance Office
For coaches and athletic staff*

November 2004

RECRUITING DATES

Baseball –

9/10 – 11/7 **Contact/Evaluation Period**

11/8 – 11/11 **Dead Period**

11/12 – 2/28 **Quiet Period except**

1/6 (12:01 a.m.) – 1/10 (12:01 a.m.) **Dead Period**

Men's Basketball –

10/6 – 11/17 **Quiet Period except**

11/8 -11/11 **Dead Period**

40 Evaluation days during 11/18 – 3/15 selected at the discretion of the institution; institutional staff members shall not visit a prospect's educational institution on more than one day per week during this period

The remainder of this Evaluation period beyond the 40 days is a **Quiet Period**

Women's Basketball –

10/8 – 2/28 **Evaluation Period except:**

11/8 -11/11 **Dead period**

40 Evaluation days during 10/8 – 2/28 selected at the discretion of the institution; institutional staff members shall not visit a prospect's educational institution on more than one day per week during this period

The remainder of this Evaluation period beyond the 40 days is a **Quiet Period**

Football –

8/1 – 11/27 **Quiet Period except:**

6 Evaluation Days during the months of September, October & through the last Saturday in November selected at the discretion of the institution (off-campus recruiter may visit an educational institution only once during this **Evaluation Period**)

Football (continued)

11/28 – 1/29 **Contact period** (with some quiet and dead periods in Dec. and Jan.): Six in-person off-campus contacts per prospective student-athlete shall be permitted during this time period with not more than one permitted in any one calendar week (Sunday through Saturday) or partial calendar week

Volleyball –

8/1 – 12/5 **Contact/Evaluation Period**
(80 Evaluation days)

except 11/8 – 11/11 **Dead Period**

All Other Sports –

Contact & Evaluation Period except
11/8 – 11/11 **Dead period**

INTERPS

*A coach may NOT hand out awards to PSA's at a high school luncheon.

* It is permissible to make contributions to an organization that may consist in part of PSA's (e.g. YMCA, Boys Club) provided the assistance is not earmarked for a particular prospective student-athlete and is offered in conjunction with the organization's regular fund-raising activities.

ROPES COURSE

During the academic year, within the playing season, an institution can pay for its team to participate in a ropes course provided it is considered practice and the hour limit is adhered to. If the ropes course activity does not relate to the sport, the instructor of the ropes course does not count within the sport coaching limits if the instructor does not engage in any on-or off-field coaching activities.

NONCOACHING STAFF MEMBERS

When counting coaches, other athletics department staff members (e.g. administrative assistants, managers, director of basketball operations) do not have to be counting as coaches, provided they do NOT engage in any on- or off-field coaching activities. Thus, if an administrative assistant performs any on-field duty that is traditionally done by a coach (e.g. pitching batting practice), that individual must be counted in the coaching limitations. Further, a manager does not have to be included in the coaching limitations, provided the manager is a student who performs traditional managerial duties. Further, it is not permissible to employ or use a manager to be involved only in on-field or on-court coaching activities. Currently, activities that are not coaching duties (e.g. watching pickup ball, playing pickup ball with SA's), other noncoaching staff members such as DOB's and managers, are permitted to perform, so long as they are not doing it at the discretion of the coaching staff and they do not report anything back to the coaches.

In regards to the DOB, it is a position that traditionally was managerial or secretarial in nature. A staff can not get around the coaching limitations by allowing the DOB to perform duties traditionally done by the coaches.

Below is a list of permissible and non-permissible duties of administrative assistants/DOB:

Permissible

- Sit on bench
- Arrange travel
- Coordinate complimentary admissions
- Review recruiting documentation
- Work with schedule
- Assign equipment
- Coordinate public service activities
- Correspondence
- Tracking academics
- Splicing game film
- Keeping play chart, statistics
- Be present at on-campus recruiting events
- Be in game huddle provided no coaching occurs
- Observe practice (but not for evaluation)

NOT Permissible

- Analyze videotape/film involving team or opponents
- Scout opponents
- Off-campus recruiting
- Observe practice for evaluation
- Set up offenses, defenses, or strategy
- Provide analysis of a practice session

RECRUITING MATERIALS

If a coach takes a laptop into a home recruiting visit and connects to the internet to show the institution's web site and other information available to the general public, it is NOT permissible to reimburse the PSA's family for use of the internet during that home visit. It is not permissible for an institution to include a recruiting presentation on its web site.

Also, coaches can not show prospects computer recruiting presentations (e.g. using presentation software), and therefore showing pictures on a computer is not permissible. Loose photos don't have the same cost implications as the computer presentation of pictures, and most likely to show the pictures some type of software or scanning capability is necessary.

It is permissible to provide or show a media guide (it can be in electronic format) to prospects, provided it is not altered in any way.

An institution may send a prospect an institutional note card that includes pictures of the institution's athletics department personnel or enrolled student-athletes. However, there is a distinction between institutional note cards and post cards. Any post card sent to a PSA must be a post card issued by the U.S. postal service (as opposed to post cards produced by any other entity, including a member institution).

An institution is not permitted to provide PSA's with any recruiting materials not listed in Bylaw 13.4.1. However, the legislation does not prohibit institutions from showing (without providing) other material (e.g., photographs, original newspaper or magazine articles, information about the community) to PSA's during permissible in-person recruiting contacts, as long as those materials are not

RECRUITING MATERIALS, CON'T.

compiled into an organized format, such as a portfolio or scrapbook or the like.

Highlight films/videotapes/audio tapes can be shown to a PSA or PSA's coach, but it may not be sent or left with the PSA or coach. The tapes may only include clips of actual athletics contests and activities that occur on the day of the contest that are directly related to the contest (e.g., pregame player introductions, half-time band and cheerleader performances, locker-room talks, crowd reactions, sideline coaching staff activities, post-game on-field award presentations). The highlight film may not include clips of other activities that are only indirectly related to the contests (e.g., team travel, team meals, entertainment activities, practice activities, institutional facilities). Official academic admissions and student-services videotapes/audio tapes/electronically produced information produced by the institution and available to ALL students may be provided to PSA's.

COMPETING IN OPEN EVENTS

A SA seeking to redshirt or who is ineligible (partial qualifier or nonqualifier serving year in residence) may compete as an individual in an "open" event involving collegiate and noncollegiate competitors without using a season of competition, **provided the SA represents only himself or herself, pays all of his or her own travel and competition expenses, does not wear any institutional uniforms or use any institutional equipment, and does not score points for the institution.**

Therefore, if a SA receives money from his or her institution to travel to and compete as an individual in an "open" event with the institution's team, the SA would be considered to have engaged in intercollegiate competition and have used a season of competition, and possibly have competed in violation of NCAA rules, even if the SA did not score points for the institution or wear the institution's uniform.

For the competition to be considered "open" it must be open to noncollegiate competitors and must be organized, publicized, and operated as an event that is open to individuals other than collegiate competitors.

AROUND THE COUNTRY

Former Stetson University women's tennis coach was found to have violated bylaws related to recruiting, extra benefits, and unethical conduct. The university was placed on probation until May 2005, a one-year extension of its probation for its previous infractions case. The coach was found to have provided false and misleading information and encouraged student-athletes to provide false and misleading information. Some of the impermissible recruiting violations included: impermissible contacts due to not receiving permission from the student-athlete's then-current four-year institution, an official visit exceeding 48 hours, providing a visit without first obtaining the student-athlete's academic transcript, and conducting impermissible tryouts. The coach also allowed a student-athlete to live in her house for free for two months, provided local transportation and regular use of her automobile for free to the student-athlete, providing skill instruction while watching workouts, and providing free lodging to two student-athletes after unofficial visits. The coach tried to hide her involvement in the improper recruiting by saying the student-athlete had a twin sister and that is who was staying at her house. To the committee, this was the most blatant instance of providing false and misleading information. The coach's penalties included being dismissed or resigning (she resigned), decreasing practice time by one week, several athletes were declared ineligible and had to repay the extra benefits they received before being reinstated, and the coach is subject to show-cause procedures by the NCAA if she works in an athletic capacity at any other affiliated institution for the next five years. The coach was then employed by University of Louisiana at Monroe where she continued to violate the rules during her transition to the latter institution. She cosigned an automobile loan for a student-athlete and helped the athlete make the loan and insurance payments. She made impermissible recruiting contacts by trying to recruit a student to transfer from Stetson to Louisiana-Monroe without the proper permission to contact her. Louisiana-Monroe was placed on a one-year probation, the coach was released from recruiting duties and eventually resigned, the student-athlete that provided false and misleading information was declared ineligible, and the coach's show-cause period was extended three years, for a total of eight.

NLI SIGNING PERIOD

The signing period for all sports other than Football and Soccer begins on November 10th and ends on November 17th. Please note the Dead Period that proceeds the upcoming signing periods begins on November 8th. No in-person, on- or off-campus contact may be made during the Dead Period. However, you may continue to write and telephone prospects during the dead period. In-person, off-campus delivery of a letter of intent by an institutional staff member is prohibited. The presence of any UC personnel during an off-campus signing is strictly prohibited. Signings may be done on campus during an official visit. Individuals who sign a letter of intent are still considered prospects; therefore all applicable NCAA recruiting legislation applies.

An institution may release publicity concerning a prospect's commitment to attend an institution only after the prospect has signed the NLI or the written offer of admission. There is no limit to the number and content of these publications which may be released to media forums at the institution's discretion. The institution can not purchase or receive commercial advertising to identify a prospect by name or picture. Following the NLI signing, coaches may participate in media activities devoted exclusively to discussing signed prospect(s), provided the institution does not initiate or arrange the media activities.

After a PSA signs an NLI, he or she is subject to the NLI Recruiting Ban and may no longer be recruited by an NLI member institution. This has been modified to clarify the ban is lifted after a student enrolls in the signing institution. NOTE: Students who initially enroll in a junior college or non-collegiate institution (prep school) remain subject to the Recruiting Ban until the NLI has been fulfilled by junior college graduation; declared null and void; or when the student is released from the NLI obligation.

OFFICIAL VISIT CLOSING TIME

The closing on an official visit is to be at the end of each day that the PSA is staying overnight. It is not in reference to the end of the visit. Be sure that you are scheduling a closing each evening at the PSA's hotel room or dorm where they are staying.

BEARCAT PRIDE

Show your Bearcat spirit by supporting our teams!

Nov. 5	Volleyball	7:30 p.m.
Nov. 6	Volleyball	2:00 p.m.
Nov. 7	Men's Soccer	1:00 p.m.
Nov. 20	Football	1:00 p.m.
Nov. 26	Volleyball	7:30 p.m.
Nov. 27	Volleyball	4:00 p.m.

OFFICIAL VISIT PROCEDURES

Please remember that an official visit is not approved until you receive a copy of the academic evaluation back from the compliance office with all of the appropriate signatures. It is YOUR responsibility to double-check to make sure a PSA has been approved to make an expense paid visit prior to the PSA initiating travel.

CONTACT WITH BOOSTERS

Parents of student-athletes are considered boosters and therefore are prohibited from having recruiting contact with prospective student-athletes. If you have an official visit you should not bring the prospect into any situation where contact with a booster could occur (e.g. team meals where parents are present).

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